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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 remain in the application.

Claim 1 stands allowed. Claims 2-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2-10 recited the term "composition" which had no antecedent basis. These claims have been amended to refer instead to the "polymer nanoparticle" recited in claim 1, and have further been amended where needed to correct for the use of plural as opposed to singular language with respect thereto.

Claim 4 has been amended to remove the phrases "and the like" and "as well as". The same changes have been made in claim 16.

Claims 9-10 have been amended to recite a singular nanoparticle, in keeping with claim 1. This amendment to claim 9 makes moot the examiner's question as to whether the crosslinking refers to self-crosslinking between layers or crosslinking between particles. Full support for use of the term crosslinking as it appears in the claims is found in the specification, for instance at page 9, lines 4-13.

Claim 11 has been amended to replace the term "combining", in steps d and e, with "reacting" (see page 12, lines 1-3) and exposing (see page 12, lines 16-19), respectively.

The examiner considers use of the term "charge" with respect to the solvent used to be unclear. It is noted that the Webster's dictionary definition of the term includes "to put a load on or in", "to saturate one substance with another". The term refers to the addition of one substance to another, as is fully supported in the Specification at page 8, lines 17-19, page 11, lines 9-11, and page 15, lines 12-14, among others. Given the foregoing, Applicants do not feel it is necessary to amend this language.

Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly recite that the hydrogenation may take place after any of steps b, c or d as recited in claim 11. This is supported at Specification page 15, line 6+.

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Claim 23 has been amended in step c to refer to nanoparticle in the singular, step d to replace "combining" with "reacting" as in claim 11, and steps e and f to refer to the formation of a metal nanocomposite.

Given the foregoing amendments, and supporting arguments, Applicants assert that all rejections have been fully responded to and overcome. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

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Date

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP


Sue Ellen Phillips
Reg. No. 32,046
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579
216/861-5582